THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Government has recognised the minimum economic size of a vanaspati unit in hilly areas to be 50 tonnes per day. Some of the considerations are higher input costs, relatively less development of the areas, transport and other infrastructural facilities not being properly developed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of vegetable ghee factories

489. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that D.G.T.D. issued guidelines for grant of licences for setting up vegetable ghee factories; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether guidelines laid down any priority for grant of licences;

(c) whether any applications for grant of licences for vegetable ghee factories in Bihar in (i) cooperative sector (ii) public sector (iii) joint sector and (v) private sector in backward areas are pending with the Central Government;

(d) if so, since when these are pending; and

(e) by when these are likely to be decided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the existing guidelines laid down by Government the following order of priority has been accorded for grant of industrial licences for manufacture of vanaspati:

(i) Cooperative of Oilseeds Growers' Industries, Ex-serviceman Cooperative, SC and ST Cooperatives.

(ii) Public Sector.

(iii) Joint Sector.

(iv) Private Sector.

(c) to (e) Three applications, one from joint sector and two from private sector have been received. These have been *prima-facie* rejected.

Vanaspati ghee manufacturing units in Bihar

490. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of units manufacturing vanaspati ghee functioning in Bihar as on the 31st March, 1988;

(b) what is their sanctioned capacity and what is their annual production; and

(c) the steps taken aaginst factories which are not utilising their sanctioned capacity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) In Bihar, there are three vanaspati units with a total licensed capacity of 60,000 M.T. per annum. The annual production of the two functioning units in the last three years has been as under:—

1986	9,028 MT
1987	9,665 MT
1988 (upto March)	2,183 MT

(c) A policy has been formulated to provide assistance in the form of the increased allocation of imported oil to units recommended by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under section 15(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. One of the unit in Bihar has availed this facility.